



Republican Policy Committee

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Clinton's Budget Charade

President Clinton, Why Doesn't Your Budget Balance... And Why Do You Say it Does?

In each of his last two weekly radio addresses to the nation, President Clinton has continued to maintain that he has produced a plan for a balanced budget. That is simply not the case, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the agency which *he* claimed would be the final arbiter of budget matters for his Administration. Something does not add up in the President's statements, just like something does not add up in the President's numbers. That is, his budget does not now, and does not in 10 years, take us to balance.

"I'm deeply committed to balance the federal budget . . ."
(President Clinton, Weekly Radio Address, 10/7/95)

"I strongly believe we must balance the budget . . . Let's be clear. Of course, of course we need to balance the budget."
(President Clinton, Weekly Radio Address, 9/30/95)

CBO as the Arbiter

"I did this so that we could argue about priorities with the same set of numbers. I did this so that no one could say I was estimating my way out of this difficulty. I did this because if we can agree together . . . then it will turn out better for the American people than we say . . . Let's at least argue about the same set of numbers so the American people will think we're shooting straight with them." [Address Before a Joint Session of Congress on Administration Goals, February 17, 1993, Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents; emphasis added]

"We will come to whatever accommodation there are to ensure that CBO is the final arbiter on the numbers . . ."
[Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle on NBC's *Meet the Press*, 6/25/95, and reported in the *Washington Times*, 6/26/95]

CBO's Conclusions

In her August 3, 1995, testimony before the House Budget Committee, CBO Director June O'Neill stated: ". . . [T]he deficits under the President's July budget would probably remain near \$200 billion through 2005 . . . The deficits under the President's policies would be significantly higher in 1996 through 2002 than the deficits assumed by the budget resolution . . ."

According to the impartial, nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), President Clinton has proposed two budgets this year that not only do not balance, but actually increase the deficit.

**Deficit Projections Based on CBO's March Baseline
(numbers in billions of \$'s)**

	<u>96</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>01</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>05</u>
Congress	170	152	116	100	81	33	(6)			
Clinton	196	212	199	213	220	211	210	207	209	209

Implications for Balancing the Budget

- Under the Clinton budget, the deficit will be 24 percent higher and further from balance than it is today.
- Under Congress' budget resolution, the deficit will be eliminated.

President Clinton, Why?

These facts raise questions that the American people have a right to have answered and that the news media have a duty to ask.

- President Clinton, why do you continue to say you support a balanced budget in light of this evidence?
- President Clinton, why if you support a balanced budget, haven't you offered one during your administration?
- President Clinton, why do you continue to say that you have offered one when CBO, your self-appointed arbiter, says you have not?
- President Clinton, why did you break your promise to the country when you said you would use CBO as your budget umpire?
- President Clinton, why did you decide to change your mind after you had not objected to CBO even once in your first three budgets, but did so only after your hastily compiled budget in June of this year — your second for fiscal year 1996?
- President Clinton, why do you persist in saying: *"I have proposed a balanced budget plan that reflects our fundamental values..."* (President Clinton, Weekly Radio Address, 9/30/95)

Shouldn't those "fundamental values" include keeping your promise and telling the truth?

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